

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /108 W

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R 301139Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1328

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0547

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET VOTE

1. PRESS TODAY HEADLINES " CLOSE" VOTE IN KNESSET (46-39, 7 ABSTENSIONS) ON SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ALONG WITH DETAILS OF ACRIMONIOUS EXCHANGES BETWEEN FINANCE MINISTER SAPIR AND OPPOSITION, AND FACT THAT TWO LABOR ALIGNMENT MKS., YITZHAK BEN-AHARON AND ARIEH ELIAV--VOTED WITH OPPOSITION AGAINST BUDGET.

2. COMMENT: SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET WAS A NON-ISSUE IN THIS FIRST DABATE IN NEW KNESSET. FLACK AIMED A SAPIR AND GOVERNMENT WAS OVER RECENT CABINET DECISION TO CUT SUBSIDIES ON FOODSTUFFS. IN CONVERSATION AT LUNCH YESTERDAY, SAPIR AND HIS SENIOR MINFINANCE COLLEAGUES DOWNPLAYED SIGNIFICANCE OF KNESSET DEBATE AS THEATRICALS AT DEBUT OF NEW KNESSET. SAPIR PERSONALLY WAS NOT WORRIED ABOUT ULTIMATE VOTE BUT WAS A LITTLE STUNG BY REMARKS AIMED AT HIM IN THE MORNING, AND NOTED THAT IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION " HE WOULD HAVE A FEW THINGS TO SAY TO BEN-AHARON."

3. NOW THAT SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET EXERCISE IS OUT OF THE WAY, SAPIR CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONCENTRATE ON TASK OF HELPING MRS. MEIR TO CREATE NEW GOVERNMENT. IN THIS RESPECT,
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PRESIDENT KATZIE TODAY FORMALLY REQUESTS MRS. MEIR

TO TAKE ON THIS TASK, SETTING IN MOTION FIRST THREE-WEEK PHASE,
AS STIPULATED BY ISRAELI LAW, FOR FORMING NEW COALITION.
PACE OF ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE EXPECTED TO INTENSIFY
MARKEDLY IN DAYS AHEAD.
KEATING

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